

F-4-27

John Kepler Farmstead
Middletown vicinity
Private

Ca. 1800-1930

The John Kepler Farmstead is an agricultural complex consisting of a domestic group with a three-section log and stone house built approximately 1800-1830, and six frame outbuildings of the last quarter of the 19th and first quarter of the 20th century including two garages, two chicken houses, a meat house, and a privy, and an agricultural group principally consisting of modern non-contributing structures, but also including a frame shop and two frame wagon shed/corn cribs which date from the last quarter of the 19th century. One of the wagon sheds is a double bay design with two pull-through openings. The Kepler Farmstead exemplifies many of the typical changes which occur in farmsteads with long histories in agricultural use from the early 19th century to the present. The dwelling retains much of its historical form with modern exterior finishes and enclosures of porches on the rear elevations. The interior also has been altered, but features such as a Greek Revival mantel and an original corner stair in the oldest part suggest the transition over several periods of residence. The surviving domestic outbuildings are also typical: chicken houses, meat house, and garage are commonly found in most farms of the 19th century. The privy is less common, but also a frequently retained building. Among the agricultural group, the Kepler Farmstead's original bank barn has been replaced, although in most farmsteads of the period, the bank barn survives from the original or a subsequent historical period. The double bay wagon shed/corn crib is fairly common, although the usual single bay type is also present.

F-4-27

John Kepler Farmstead

Middletown

Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:

Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815

Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870

Industrial Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes

Agriculture

Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:

Domestic/single dwelling/residence

Domestic/secondary structure/garage

Domestic/secondary structure/other dependencies

Agriculture/subsistence/storage/granary

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic John Kepler Farmstead

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 7800B Picnic Woods Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Middletown ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John M. Burrier

street & number 7800B Picnic Woods Road telephone no.:

city, town Middletown state and zip code Md. 21769

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 681

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 324

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Paul Brinkman/Anthony James Surveys of Frederick County #F-233/#F-3-16

date 1968 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records Md. SHPO

city, town Crownsville state Md.

7. Description

Survey No. F-4-27

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 10

The John Kepler Farmstead is an agricultural complex centered on a log and stone two-story dwelling built over the period about 1800-1830 with mid-20th century additions and several associated domestic frame outbuildings including two chicken houses, a privy, a meathouse, two garages, all dating from the last quarter of the 19th century and the early 20th century. The farmstead agricultural group includes a frame shop/tool shed, two frame wagon shed/corn cribs, and several non-contributing metal sheds and a metal Butler barn, loafing sheds, and two non-contributing concrete silos and several modern metal silos. The farmstead is located on the west side of Picnic Woods Road about 1/4 mile south of Marker Road and is reached via an approximately 1/4 mile drive off Picnic Woods Road. The area is about two miles southwest of Middletown, Frederick County, Maryland.

The dwelling house has three sections. The principal sections are two side-by-side log sections with the main elevations facing east. The northernmost of the two is a two-story structure possibly dating from about 1830 with three bays and the southern section has 1-1/2 stories with two bays and may be the oldest part of the house, according to Mrs. Burrier, the current owner. Research in the land records suggests this may be as early as 1800. A one-story porch extends across the east elevation of both log parts. The third section is a two-story stone rear wing possibly built about 1830-1840 extending west from the northern log section. Both the log sections have vinyl siding and modern composition roofing covers the entire house. An enclosed chimney between the two log sections was probably originally built with the 1-1/2 story section. A second interior chimney is located at the north gable end of the north section. The rear wing has two chimneys, one enclosed, indicating that the rear wing may have been enlarged in two different periods. In the angle between the main sections and the wing are two enclosed porches, an alteration of the modern period. The windows are 6/6 and modern shutters flank the windows. The doors are paneled replacements. Each of the log sections contains an entrance. The interior of the house has been much altered in terms of wall and floor covering, although a corner stair to the upper half story in the southern section is still in place, and the northern section's parlor has a Greek Revival period mantel with side columns and an ogee curved center panel.

Domestic outbuildings:

Chicken houses: The two frame chicken houses are probably late 19th century structures and are located south of the house. Each has tongue-and-groove siding and a shed corrugated metal roof with 6/6 windows in the east and south elevations.

Privy: The frame gable-roofed privy has tongue-and-groove siding and a vertical board floor in the east elevation with a semi-circular vent in the east gable. The roof is modern composition material. The privy was probably built in the last quarter of the 19th century and is located southwest of the house just south of the meat house.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-4-27

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates C. 1800-1930 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The John Kepler Farmstead exemplifies many of the changes which altered the appearance and types of buildings in early 19th century farms which have a continuous agricultural use to the present. The dwelling in such farmsteads often retains much of its historical form, as does the Kepler house in the two log sections and the stone rear wing, and some interior details, as in the Greek Revival mantel and an original corner staircase. The exterior finishes and porches show the most alteration, with enclosures and replacement or covering of the logs and/or later wood siding with vinyl. The domestic outbuildings found in the typical farmstead of the period usually are represented by chicken houses, a meat or smokehouse, and an early 20th century garage. The Kepler farm has these three associated buildings, as well as a privy, another common survivor of the late 19th century. The agricultural group often has the most changes, both in the use and replacement of buildings, and the addition of structures as the principal products of the farm changed over time. In the Kepler farm, the central structure of the historical farm, the bank barn, has been replaced by a modern metal barn in the same location, perhaps as a result of fire or deterioration of the earlier building. The principal survivors of this group are the shop and the wagon shed/corn cribs, with the remainder of the agricultural buildings being non-contributing due to recent construction date.

The farm has been associated with the Kepler family from at least 1827 when John Kepler purchased the farm from the estate of Conrad Young. The earliest section of the house may be older, as Conrad Young consolidated several tracts under the name "Youngest Brother" in 1769, suggesting that a structure could likely have been erected on the farm by 1800. The approximately 250 acres that John Kepler acquired in 1827 was owned by his descendants until 1935 and survived intact until recent subdivisions of the property by the current owners.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-27

Bond, Isaac, Map of Frederick County, 1858.
Land Records of Frederick County
Personal interview with Mrs. John M. Burrier, Feb. 11, 1992
Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3 acresQuadrangle name Middletown, Md.Quadrangle scale 1:24000UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 3 acres centered on the main dwelling including the domestic and agricultural groups on Tax Map 64, Parcel 8.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept.	date	March 1992
street & number	12 E. Church Street	telephone	696-2958
city or town	Frederick	state	Md. 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCE
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2028
514-7600

7.1 Description (Continued)

Meat house: The meat house is a frame rectangular structure with tongue-and-groove siding and a gable composition roof. Located southwest of the house next to the privy, it has a single vertical board door in the east elevation. The meat house also dates from the last quarter of the 19th century.

Garages: The two frame garages are located west of the house on either side of the farm lane which runs between the domestic group and the agricultural group. The garage on the south side of the lane is a rectangular building with vinyl siding and an open doorway on the north side. The gable roof is composition. It may date from the first quarter of the 20th century. The second garage is located on the north side of the lane and has german siding and a corrugated metal gable roof. Both garages may have had alternative uses such as equipment or tool storage.

Shop: The frame shop is located west of the garage on the south side of the farm lane. The rectangular building has a composition gable roof and german siding. The door is vertical boards located on the north elevation and the windows are 6/6. The building was probably erected in the last quarter of the 19th century and is now a tool shed.

Agricultural outbuildings:

Wagon shed/corn cribs: Two pull-through type wagon shed/corn crib structures built during the late 19th century are located in the agricultural group, which is principally made up of modern, non-contributing buildings. One of the shed/granary buildings is located at the eastern edge of the agricultural group northwest of a concrete block, non-contributing milk house. This is a single bay frame building with vertical siding and a composition gable roof. Double doors open on the south elevation. The second shed/granary building is a double bay design located north of the non-contributing Butler barn at the north edge of the agricultural group. The double bay structure has vertical siding and twin 3/3 windows in the gable. It has a composition roof. The center section of the shed between the two open bays has a stairway to the upper level storage space with addition corn storage under the stairs.

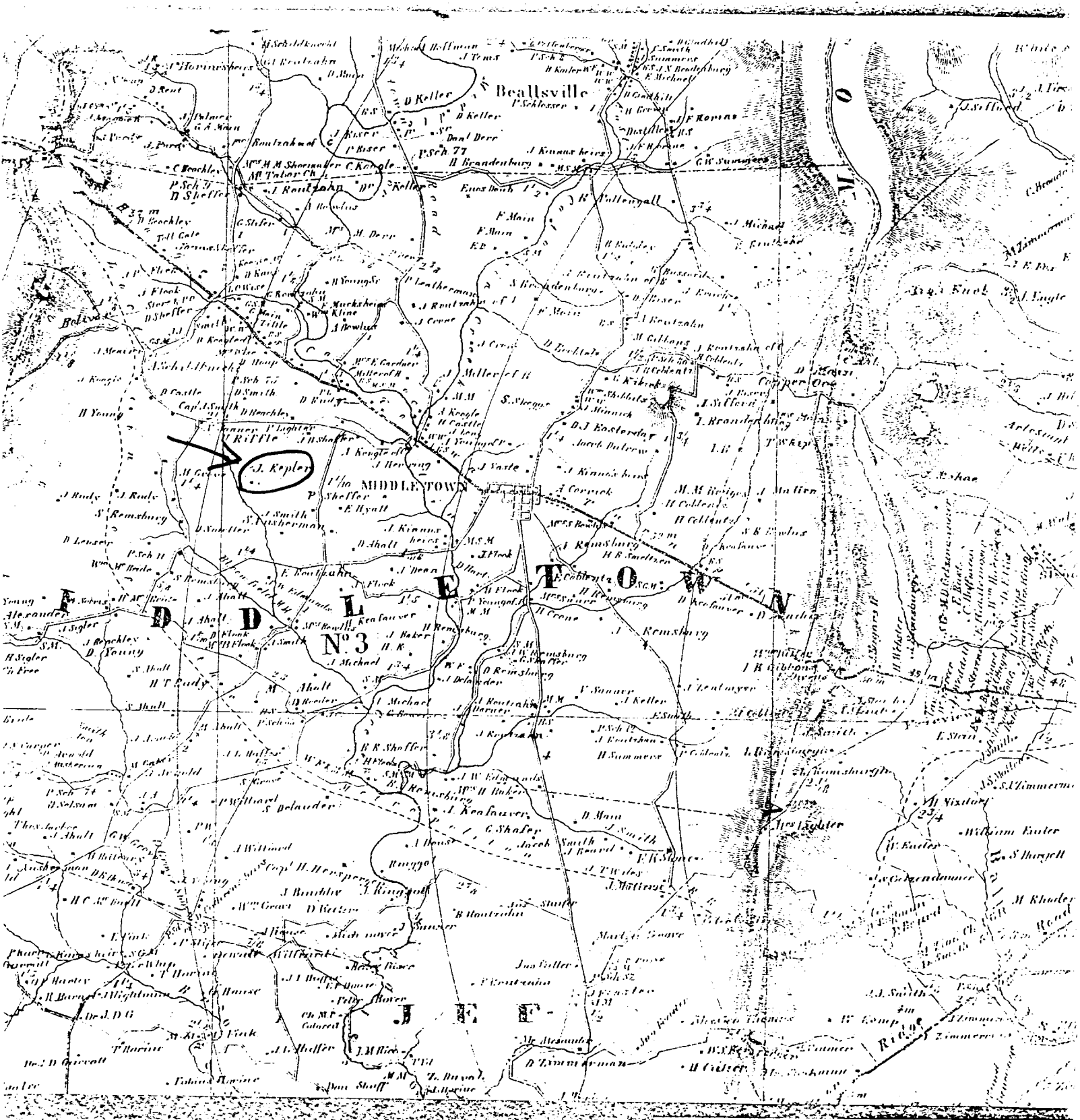
Non-contributing agricultural buildings: The current working farm is principally made up of modern period structures, including the Butler barn built on the foundation of an older barn, several metal silos, loafing sheds, a calf shed, two tractor sheds, and two concrete silos.

#63 7800B Picoma Mts. Rd.

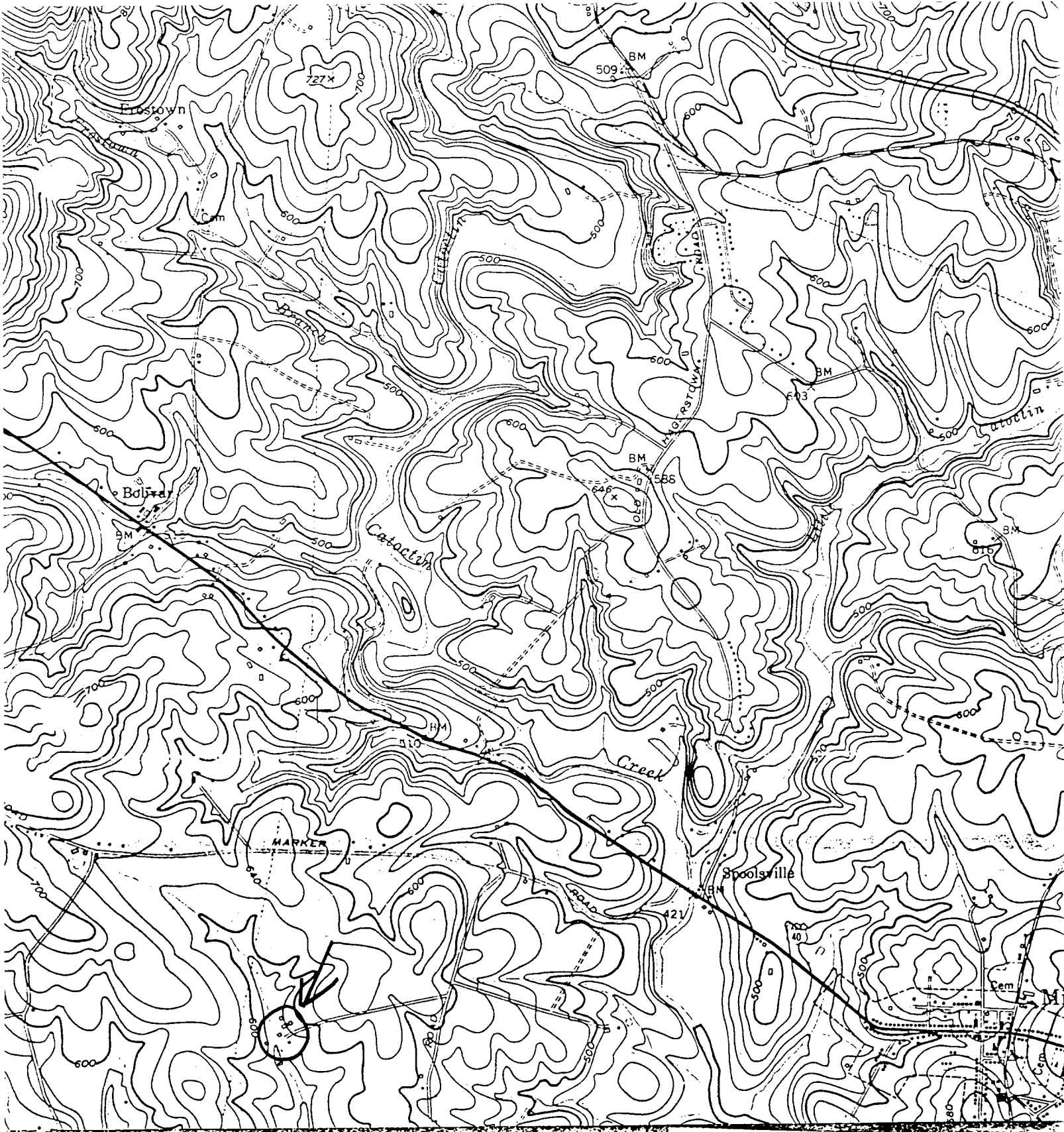
LIBER/FC. 0	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
681/324 29 Mar 63	John M. & Ruth Ellen I. Burrier	Richard & Doris I. Beachley	249 1/2 A. 179.5 A. Plat Book 4/37 22 Jan 63		
681/322 31 Aug 62	Richard A. & Doris I. Beachley	Robert H. & Rosella F. Routzahn	249 A.		
556/176 8 Nov 55	Robert H. & Rosella F. Routzahn	George W. Kefauver (widower)			
556/174 8 Nov 55	George W. Kefauver	Robert H. & Rosella F. Routzahn			
399/41 31 May 35	Robert H. Routzahn	Lloyd M. Kepler (widower)	249 A.		
JLS 11/671 21 Mar 1896	Lloyd M. Kepler of Huntingdon Pa.	Amanda E. Kepler et al, heirs of Henry M. Kepler	249 A.	\$15,000	F-4-27
AF 3/234 31 Mar 1881	Henry M. Kepler	Wm. J. Kepler, trustee in Equity #4553 Wm. J. Kepler & af. us. Henry M. Kepler & af.	"Home Farm of John Kepler Sr."	\$13,446	
JS 26/473 12 May 1827	John Kepler	Henry Young & Matthias F. Cook, exec. of Conrad Young, dec.	249.5 A. "Youngest Brother"	\$7,485	

[illegible]

F-4-27



F-4-27
John Kepler Farmstead
Frederick County
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick
County, 1858



F-4-27
John Kepler Farmstead
Frederick County
USGS Middletown, Md.
1:24000





5. 2. 200

John Kuyler Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: John Louis

February 1992

View of the Mid Silica, Green and the Mid

Southwest Corner View

2/5



F. 4-27

John Kepler, Tappahannock

Frederick County

Daniel & Davis

February 1992

Neop. loc. 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122

Privy & meat house, east elevation

3/3



F 4-27

John K. Plot Forristead

Frederick Van Dy

Photo: Joint + Co.

February 1942

Nea. Co. Md. 3480 Crownsville Rd.

Wagon 20 a day. 3000 sq. ft. elevation

45



